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MAJOR FEDERAL AID TO EDUCATION BILLS

A CHRONOLOGICAL SUMMARY AND DESCRIPTION OF SELECTED MAJOR BILLS, 1949–59, AND BIBLIOGRAPHY

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND LABOR
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MAJOR FEDERAL AID TO EDUCATION BILLS [1]

A Chronological Summary and Description of Selected Major Bills, 1949–59

1949

THE EDUCATIONAL FINANCE ACT OF 1949

S. 246 (as reported): To authorize an annual appropriation of $300 million each fiscal year to assist the States and Territories in financing a minimum foundation education program of public elementary and secondary schools, and in reducing the inequalities of educational opportunities through public elementary and secondary schools, for general welfare, and for other purposes.

Legislative history: S. 246, as amended, was reported (S. Rept. 158, 81st Cong., 1st sess.) to the Senate on March 25, 1949. It was debated on the following days: April 29 (pp. 5309–5333*); May 2 (pp. 5391–5429); May 3 (pp. 5468–5480; pp. 5488–5501); May 4 (pp. 5570–5589; pp. 5592–5595); May 5 (pp. 5633–5674; pp. 5677–5687). It was passed in the Senate on May 5, 1949, by a vote of 58 yeas over 15 nays (p. 5687). The bill was referred to the House Committee on Education and Labor May 9, 1949, and hearings were held by a special subcommittee. The bill was not reported by the House committee.

U.S. Congress hearings and report: *U.S. Congress. Senate. Committee on Labor and Public Welfare.* Educational Finance Act of 1949. Washington, U.S. Government Printing Office, 1949. 16 pages (81st Cong., 1st sess., S. Rept. No. 158).

——— ——— *House. Committee on Education and Labor.* Public School Assistance Act of 1949. Hearings before a special subcommittee of the Committee on Education and Labor, House of Representatives, 81st Congress, 1st session on S. 246 and H.R. 4643. Washington, U.S. Government Printing Office, 1949, 953 pages.

1950

EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES FINANCE ACT

H.R. 1551: To assist the States to provide adequate educational facilities in their public elementary and secondary school systems, the Reconstruction Finance Corporation would be authorized to make grants totaling $300 million and loans totaling $300 million to the States.

This bill was not reported.

[1] For aid to elementary and secondary schools.
*Page listings are to the Congressional Record.

U.S. Congress hearings: *U.S. Congress. House. Committee on Education and Labor.* Federal aid to school construction. Hearings before a special subcommittee of the Committee on Education and Labor, House of Representatives, 81st Congress, 2d session on H.R. 1551. Washington, U.S. Government Printing Office, 1950; 260 pages.

1952

FEDERAL ASSISTANCE FOR SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION

House Resolution 73: Authorized the House Committee on Education and Labor to conduct studies and investigations relating to matters coming within the committee's jurisdiction. Hearings were held, pursuant to this resolution, by a special subcommittee appointed by Representative Graham A. Barden, committee chairman. The major objective of these hearings was to determine the feasibility and the possibility of making Federal grants-in-aid on a matching basis to individual school districts to assist in the construction of school facilities.

No bill for general Federal aid for school construction was reported by the committee.

U.S. Congress hearings: *U.S. Congress. House. Committee on Education and Labor.* Federal assistance for school construction and aid to education. Hearings before a special subcommittee of the Committee on Education and Labor, House of Representatives, 82d Congress, 2d session, pursuant to House Resolution 73. Washington, U.S. Government Printing Office, 1952, 352 pages.

1954

FEDERAL AID FOR SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION

House Resolution 115: Authorized the House Committee on Education and Labor to conduct studies and investigations relating to matters coming within the committee's jurisdiction. Hearings were held, pursuant to this resolution, by a special subcommittee appointed by Representative Samuel K. McConnell, Jr., committee chairman. The subcommittee was directed to conduct a study of the general construction needs for public elementary and secondary school buildings with the view in mind of making recommendations as to legislation to provide for Federal financial assistance in meeting such construction needs.

No bill for general Federal aid for school construction was reported by the committee.

S. 2601 (as reported): To authorize an appropriation of $250 million for each of 2 fiscal years to the States and territories for the construction of public elementary and secondary school facilities.

Legislative history: S. 2601, as amended, was reported (S. Rept. 1771, 83d Cong., 2d sess.) to the Senate on July 9, 1954.

The bill was passed over by the Senate on the following days: July 10 (p. 10211); August 11 (p. 14090); August 12 (p. 14268); and finally on August 18 (pp. 14946–14947).

U.S. Congress hearings and report: *U.S. Congress. House. Committee on Education and Labor.* Federal aid for school construction. Hearings before a special subcommittee of the Committee on Education and Labor, House of Representatives, 83d Congress, pursuant to House Resolution 115, October 6, 7, and 8, 1954. Washington, U.S. Government Printing Office, 1954. 408 pages.

———. ———. *Senate. Committee on Labor and Public Welfare.* Construction of school facilities. Hearings before the Subcommittee on Education of the Committee on Labor and Public Welfare, U.S. Senate, 83d Congress, 2d session on S. 359, S. 2601, S. 2779. May 11 to June 9, 1954. Washington, U.S. Government Printing Office, 1954. 332 pages.

———. ———. ———. ———. Emergency Federal aid for school construction. Report of the Committee on Education and Labor on S. 2601. Washington, U.S. Government Printing Office, 1954. 16 pages (83d Cong., 2d sess., S. Rept. 1771).

1955–56

FEDERAL ASSISTANCE TO STATES FOR SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION

H.R. 7535: This bill would authorize for 4 fiscal years three alternative methods of Federal assistance in financing an expanded program of school construction so as to eliminate the national shortage of classrooms, as follows: (1) up to $400 million for each fiscal year would be authorized for grants to State educational agencies for assistance to communities where this type of aid could be most effectively utilized as determined by a priority system established by the State; (2) purchases by the Federal Government of bonds issued by school districts which are capable of financing their own school construction, but cannot obtain financing from ordinary sources on reasonable terms; would limit total principal amount of all these purchased obligations of up to $750 million for the 4 fiscal years of the program; purchases in any one State could not exceed 15 percent of the principal amount of all purchases during 1 fiscal year; and (3) Federal credit assistance to State school-financing agencies to provide schools and related facilities in States where such agencies exist or are created. Such appropriations would be authorized as necessary to make initial advances for 4 fiscal years. Federal advances may be made only to support an aggregate principal amount of not more than $6 billion.

Legislative history: H.R. 7535 was reported (H. Rept. 1504, 84th Cong., 1st sess.) to the House on July 28, 1955, however, no action was taken during the 1st session of the 84th Congress. The measure was debated during the 2d session of the 84th Congress on the following days: June 28, 1956

(pp. 11302–11311); June 29 (pp. 11454–11503); July 3 (pp. 11734–11773); July 5 (pp. 11843–11884). An amendment to provide "that there shall be no Federal funds allotted or transferred to any State which fails to comply with the decisions of the Supreme Court" was passed by a vote of 225 yeas over 192 nays (p. 11881). An amendment to recommit the bill to the House committee for additional amendments was rejected by a vote of 226 nays over 158 yeas (p. 11883). The bill was defeated by a vote of 224 nays over 194 yeas (p. 11884).

U.S. Congress hearings and report: *U.S. Congress. House. Committee on Education and Labor.* Federal aid to States for school construction. Hearings before the Committee on Education and Labor. House of Representatives, 84th Congress, 1st session, March 7 to May 24, 1955. Washington, U.S. Government Printing Office, 1955. 3 parts.

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———. ———. *Senate. Committee on Labor and Public Welfare.* Emergency Federal aid for school construction. Hearings before the Committee on Labor and Public Welfare, U.S. Senate, 84th Congress, 1st session on S. 4, S. 5, S. 480, S. 552, S. 686. January 27, 28, and 31, 1955. Washington, U.S. Government Printing Office, 1955. 277 pages.

———. ———. ———. ———. Federal assistance to increase public school construction. Hearings before the Committee on Labor and Public Welfare, U.S. Senate, 84th Congress, 1st session on S. 968. February 16, 17, 18, and 21, 1955. Washington, U.S. Government Printing Office, 1955; 388 pages.

1957

SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1957

H.R. 1 (as reported): This bill would authorize for 5 fiscal years three alternative programs for emergency. Federal assistance in financing school construction, as follows: (1) up to $300 million for each fiscal year would be authorized for grants to State educational agencies for the same purposes described above under (1) of H.R. 7535 except for an additional provision in H.R. 1. This provision would apply a State school effort index to provide that the allotment for which each State is eligible may be modified where the State falls below the national average both in the proportion of its income spent for public education and the amount spent

per public school child; (2) authorizes for 5 fiscal years an aggregate appropriation of $750 million to purchase local school bonds, as described above in (2) of H.R. 7535 except for a provision which under H.R. 1 would provide that the total obligations in any one State which could be purchased by the Federal Government would be limited through use of an allocation formula based on school-age population; and (3) Federal credit assistance is authorized for 5 fiscal years for the same purposes described under (3) of H.R. 7535 except that the appropriation for making initial advances for 5 fiscal years is not to exceed an aggregate of $150 million; also, the total amount of obligations outstanding at any one time could not exceed $10 million, and the total amount which may be appropriated, in addition to repayments made by State school-financing agencies, for payments on obligations issued by the Commissioner of Education could not exceed $10 million for payments on principal and an additional amount for such interest as may be due.

Legislative history: H.R. 1, as amended, was reported (H. Rept. 489, 85th Cong., 1st sess.) to the House on May 28, 1957. It was debated on the following days: July 23 (pp. 12476–12503); July 24 (pp. 12587–12636); July 25 (pp. 12720–12754). An amendment to provide that "no funds appropriated pursuant to this title shall be granted to any local educational agency operating school facilities in violation of the decision on segregation by the Supreme Court of the United States" was passed by a vote of 136 ayes over 105 nays (p. 12744). The bill was defeated by a vote on the motion to strike out the enacting clause—208 yeas, 203 nays (p. 12754).

U.S. Congress hearings and report: *U.S. Congress. House. Committee on Education and Labor.* Proposed legislation for Federal assistance to States for school-construction purposes. Hearings before a subcommittee of the Committee on Education and Labor, House of Representatives, 85th Congress, 1st session, February 4–8, 11, 13, 18, 20; March 7–8, 11–14, 1957. Washington, U.S. Government Printing Office, 1957, 3 parts.

———. ———. ———. ———. School Construction Assistance Act of 1957. Report on H.R. 1, a bill to authorize Federal assistance to the States and local communities in financing an expanded program of school construction so as to eliminate the national shortage of classrooms. May 28, 1957. Washington, U.S. Government Printing Office, 1957; 65 pages (85th Cong., 1st sess. House. Rept. No. 489).

1958

FEDERAL GRANTS TO THE STATES FOR EDUCATION

During the 2d session of the 85th Congress a subcommittee of the House Committee on Education and Labor held hearings to consider the following bills:

H.R. 10763: To authorize assistance to States and local communities in remedying the inadequacies in the number of their teachers and teachers' salaries and the shortage in classrooms. Appropriations would be authorized for amounts equal to the product of school-age population times $25 for the first fiscal year of the program, $50 for the second fiscal year, $75 for the third fiscal year, and $100 for each fiscal year thereafter. Among other provisions of this bill there is a State school effort index.

H.R. 11530: To authorize a 3-year program of Federal grants, not to exceed $600 million in any fiscal year, to States and communities to enable them to increase public elementary and secondary school construction. Bill also would provide for a State school effort index.

H.R. 11625: To authorize the appropriation of such amounts as may be necessary for each of 6 fiscal years to make payments to the States to assist in constructing schools.

H.R. 11854: To authorize a 4-year program of Federal grants, not to exceed $500 million in any fiscal year, to assist the States and localities in the construction of schools. Bill also would provide for a State school effort index.

H.R. 12058: To authorize for 3 fiscal years Federal assistance to the States and local communities in financing an expanded program of school construction so as to eliminate the national shortage of classrooms. This bill is similar to H.R. 1 (85th Cong., 1st sess.) outlined above except that under the grant programs up to $500 million for each fiscal year would be authorized.

None of these bills was reported by the House committee.

GRANTS FOR SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION AND TEACHERS' SALARIES

S. 3311: This bill to authorize Federal grants for school construction and teachers' salaries is identical with H.R. 10763 described above.

S. 3311 was not reported by the Senate committee.

U.S. Congress hearings: *U.S. Congress. House. Committee on Education and Labor.* Federal grants to States for education. Hearings before a subcommittee of the Committee on Education and Labor, House of Representatives, 85th Congress, 2d session on H.R. 10763 [and other] bills on Federal aid to States for elementary and secondary education and matters of general concern to education. Hearings held in

Washington, D.C., April 28–30; May 1–2, 26; June 3–5, 1958. Washington, U.S. Government Printing Office, 1958; 526 pages.

———. ———. *Senate. Committee on Labor and Public Welfare.* Grants for school construction and teachers' salaries. Hearings before the Subcommittee on Education, 85th Congress, 2d session, on S. 3311, a bill to authorize assistance to States and local communities in remedying the inadequacies in the number of their teachers and teachers' salaries, and the shortage in classrooms. June 30, July 1, and 16, 1958. Washington, U.S. Government Printing Office, 1958; 106 pages.

1959

SCHOOL SUPPORT ACT OF 1959

H.R. 22 (as reported): This bill would authorize for each of 4 fiscal years an appropriation of the amount equal to the product of $25 times a number equal to the school population of all the States. A State's allotment may be used for school construction and teachers' salaries as determined by the State education agency. Bill also would provide for a State school effort index.

Legislative history: H.R. 22, as amended, was reported (H. Rept. 447, 86th Cong., 1st sess.) to the House on June 8, 1959, however, no action was taken on it during the 1st session of the 86th Congress.

EMERGENCY FEDERAL ASSISTANCE FOR SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION

S. 8 (as reported): This bill would authorize an appropriation of $500 million for each of 2 fiscal years for grants to the States to provide assistance in the construction of urgently needed public elementary and secondary school facilities in local communities. Bill also would provide for a State school effort index.

Legislative history: S. 8, as amended was reported (S. Rept. 1011, 86th Cong., 1st sess.) to the Senate on September 12, 1959. No action was taken during the 1st session of the 86th Congress. The Senate began consideration of the bill on February 2, 1960 (Daily Record, pp. 1609–1611, 1617–1621). It was debated on the following days: February 3 (Daily Record, pp. 1717–1728; 1736–1755; 1756–1767; 1768–1770; 1773–1805); February 4 (Daily Record, pp. 1841, 1859–1895, 1897–1927). An amended version was passed in the Senate on February 4, 1960, by a vote of 51 yeas over 34 nays (p. 1927). The amended version of S. 8, as reported would authorize to be appropriated for each of 2 fiscal years an amount equal to $20 times a number equal to the school-age population between 5 and 17, inclusive, of the United States for making payments to State educational agencies to provide assistance in the construction of urgently needed public ele-

mentary and secondary school facilities in local communities and for teachers' salaries. As in S. 8, as reported, the bill would provide for a State school effort index after the first year of the program. The bill as it passed the Senate also changed the method for matching Federal funds. It would provide that in the second year of the program a State, in order to receive its allotment, must have matched the Federal funds the State received under the act in the previous year by having increased its expenditures for elementary and secondary education by an amount that is not less than the product of (*a*) the State's share and (*b*) the expenditures for elementary and secondary education from State and local sources in the base school year 1959–60. S. 8, as amended and passed by the Senate was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor of the House of Representatives on Feb. 8, 1960.

U.S. Congress hearings and reports: *U.S. Congress. House. Committee on Education and Labor.* School Support Act of 1959. Hearings before a subcommittee of the Committee on Education and Labor, House of Representatives, 86th Congress, 1st session, on H.R. 22, and related bills. Washington, U.S. Government Printing Office, 1959; 590 pages.

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